

## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Helmut Konopa et al  
Application Number: Unassigned  
Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith  
Group Art Unit:  
Examiner:  
Title: REFRIGERATING APPLIANCE

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, I am submitting a completed "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" (*Form PTO/SB/08A*) with patents and/or publications as delineated therein attached.

DE 102 08 558 discloses that a tray has electrical terminals for connection to a base heating element controlled by a thermostat and a water level float and switch which energize the heater when the safe water level is reached.

JP 2003 130535 discloses that a heater formed in a hairpin shape is arranged inside the water receiving pan so as not to block the drain hole by freezing when a part of the defrosting water flowing down in the lower water receiving pan from the cooler according to defrosting of the cooler corresponding to a refrigerating chamber and a vegetable chamber remains inside the water receiving pan. After finishing defrosting operation, electric power is supplied to the heater for a prescribed time to forcibly evaporate the water remaining in the water receiving pan. At low temperature time when a room temperature is, for example, not more than 5 deg.C after finishing the defrosting operation, the electric power is supplied to the heater, and a cold air forcibly circulating air blower is operated for a prescribed time.

JP 8 271120 discloses that in a refrigerator in which a ceiling part of its main body is provided with a compressor and a cooling system such as a cooling device or the like, an evaporating pan is arranged at a bottom part of the main body and a water discharging pipe for flowing the defrosted water generated at the cooling device to the evaporating pan, a heater is installed in the evaporating pan.

JP 2003 279229 discloses that in this cooling storage house, the interior of a storeroom is cooled by a condenser of a cooling device, and the cooling storage house includes the evaporation tray for receiving drainage such as defrosting water from the condenser, and the electric heater for heating the evaporation tray. The cooling storage house is provided with a water level sensor for detecting the water level in the evaporation tray, whereby when the water level sensor detects a designated water level in the evaporation tray, the electric heater is heated with a limited quantity of power generation, and when the state where the water level sensor detects the designated water level continues for a designated period of time, the heating value of the electric heater is raised.

DE 198 55 504 discloses that the refrigeration device has a thermally insulated housing with at least one cold chamber and a machine chamber for accommodating refrigeration equipment, e.g. a compressor or similar, in which a condensed water collection pan is arranged that is exposed to the heat of the compressor, at least at its bottom. The bottom of the pan is made at least in sections of at least approximately flexurally slack material that can come into thermally conducting contact with the compressor housing, at least in some sections.

If no translation of pertinent portions of any foreign language patents or publications mentioned within the "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" is included with the aforementioned copies of those applications, patents and/or publications, it is because no existing translation is readily available to the Applicants. As per the Notice in 1273 OG 55 (August 5, 2003) no copies of any above-mentioned US patents and US patent application publications are submitted for this application which was filed after June 30, 2003.

Respectfully submitted



Craig J. Loest

Registration No. 48,557

September 14, 2006

BSH Home Appliances Corp.  
100 Bosch Blvd  
New Bern, NC 28562  
Phone: 252-672-7930  
Fax: 714-845-2807  
craig.loest@bshg.com

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**(Use as many sheets as necessary)**

Application Number	Unassigned
Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
First Named Inventor	Helmut Konopa et al
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	2004P00357WOUS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		DE 102 08 558	09/04/2003	VASILIOS ZIGARIS		
		JP 2003 130535	05/08/2003	GOSHIMA JUNJI et al		
		JP 8 271120	10/18/1996	KEIZO TSUKAMOTO		
		JP 2003 279229	10/02/2003	NOBUYUKI MASUDA		
		DE 198 55 504	06/08/2000	DETLEF CIESLIK et al		
		International Search Report PCT/EP2005/051136				✓

Date  
Considered

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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